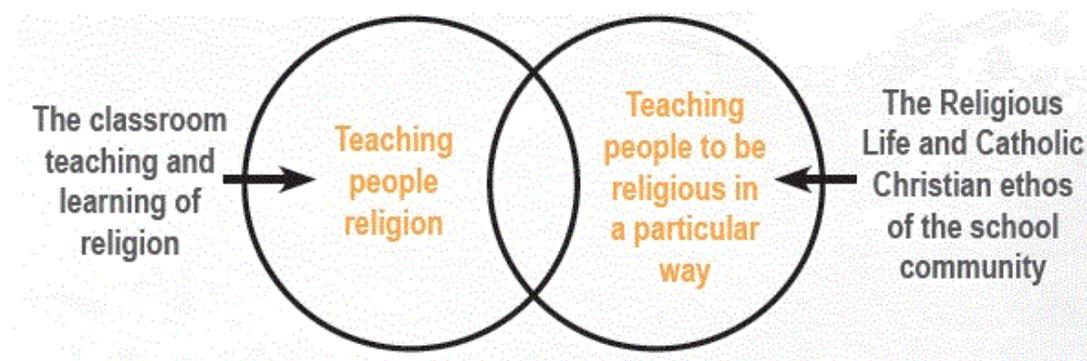


## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The Vision for Religious Education within the Catholic schools of the Archdiocese of Brisbane provides a voice for our students to become religiously literate about the Catholic faith and to become a religious voice outside of the classroom and into the world.

*“The schools and colleges of the Archdiocese of Brisbane aspire to educate and form students who are challenged to live the gospel of Jesus Christ and who are literate in the Catholic and broader Christian tradition so that they might participate critically and authentically in faith contexts and wider society.”*

St Francis Xavier Catholic School shares and promotes the Vision for Religious Education articulated by Brisbane Catholic Education and the wider church. This vision includes the two dimensions of formation, namely, of students’ religious literacy and their personal faith.



The first of these dimensions is explained in the *Religious Education Curriculum P – 12* document. The second dimension is outlined in the Archdiocesan document, *Religious Life of the School*.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CURRICULUM P-12

**St Francis Xavier Catholic Primary School** aims to nurture both the educational and the faith dimensions of our children within a Catholic Christian Community.



We provide a comprehensive *Religious Education Curriculum P - 12* Program that focuses on:

- our need to learn about religion - in particular the Roman Catholic tradition, and about other religious traditions in society, and
- our need to grow in and to express ourselves in the Catholic faith tradition, while respecting other traditions.

The RE Curriculum is based on an achievement standard approach and is aligned with the Archdiocesan vision, policies and guidelines. The Religious Education Curriculum is organised into four interrelated strands:

1. **Sacred Texts**
2. **Belief**
3. **Church**
4. **Christian Life**

The curriculum aims to develop our learners’ religious literacy by providing high quality learning opportunities so all may participate critically and effectively as life-long learners in our faith communities and in society.

The School Scope and Sequence document demonstrates the planning for the classroom learning and teaching of religion which balances and integrates all four strands.

## RELIGIOUS LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

*The Religious Life of the School (RLOS)* is comprised of four interrelated components:

- **Religious Identity and Culture;**
- **Evangelisation and Faith Formation;**
- **Prayer and Worship;** and
- **Social Action and Justice.**

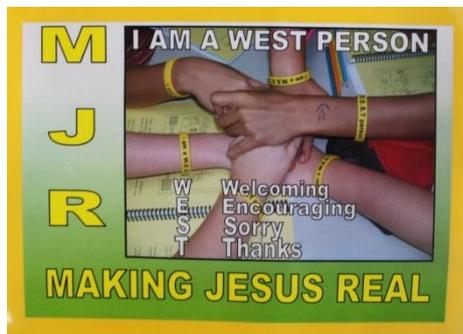


Each of these components provides a focus on a particular aspect of the religious life of the school which assists with the faith formation of our students and families.

The Religious Education Curriculum P – 12 and the Religious Life of the School documents, together, present students at St Francis Xavier with an Ignatian worldview and invite them into the life of a community guided by that worldview. At St Francis Xavier Catholic School, our **identity and culture** are aligned with the tenets of what it means to be an Ignatian school.

Our aim is to provide opportunities for each child to develop a close personal relationship with God. We nurture their faith and spiritual development in a Catholic Christian environment steeped in the unique **Ignatian spirituality** of St Ignatius of Loyola. St Ignatius and St Francis Xavier were two of the seven founders of the Jesuit order (Society of Jesus). The core to the Ignatian Spirituality is encapsulated in the quote “*Finding God in All Things*”. As a Catholic School following in the Ignatian tradition, our Mission Statement reflects the values that our patron saint aspired to bring to the world. St Francis Xavier was a man of faith and courage who inspired love and whose mission was to find God in all things.





Making Jesus Real (MJR) is a way of living which the St Francis Xavier school community teaches and witnesses to one another. It is an everyday spirituality with a positive approach to life and highlights the importance of respectful and right relationships with all those we meet. MJR encourages us to be **W.E.S.T.** people who - **Welcome, Encourage, say Sorry, give Thanks.**

We can become people who compliment; use encouraging words; smile; give thanks; say sorry, please and thank you; give a wave, wink or thumbs up. Every kind act that we do is living the Catholic faith – those small simple gestures are living as Jesus would want us to do. They help us to be a happy and positive person. When we live out W.E.S.T. we are making the Gospel, the “Good News”, happen in our daily lives.

At the end of each day we need to ask ourselves these questions:

- Where was Jesus in my life today?
- Did I see God and the good in myself and others?

At St Francis Xavier Catholic School, we strive to be both an educative and evangelising community. We **evangelise** and support **faith formation** through our identity and culture; through word and action within our school community, parish and wider community as well as through the Religious Education curriculum. To support the Staff to model and teach the tenets of and Ignatian school, faith formation opportunities are provided:

**IGNIS 1 - Finding God in All Things** which is a national two day program introducing the participants to the life of St Ignatius Loyola, his worldview and approach to ministry based on the Spiritual Exercises. It also gives an insight into the governance structures and works of the Society of Jesus. This program is facilitated by two of our staff members.

**IGNIS 2 - Tasting the Spiritual Exercises** is a national two-day program follows on for participants who have experienced Ignis 1. The Province expectation is those who attended the Ignis 1 program will attend this program. Participants will through prayer, reflection and conversation consider the intention, rhythm and central focus of the Spiritual Exercises and the preferential option for the poor. This program is facilitated by Mr Martin Scroope, Director, Canisius Centre of Ignatian Spirituality, Sydney.

**RETREAT IN DAILY LIFE** is an opportunity of doing the Spiritual Exercises in daily life. It offers the participants to make a commitment to praying each day over a number of weeks as well as to meet for conversation about the Spiritual Exercises with a spiritual director / companion. The spiritual director for the last three years is Fr Michael Ryan sj, Director Sevenhills Centre for Ignatian Spirituality, Adelaide.

